

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 17, 2004 has been carefully reviewed. Claims 13 and 25 were indicated as being allowable. Claims 8-13 and claims 21-25 were objected to because of a informality relating to the language in the preamble of the independent claims. Claims 8-10, 12, and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP0617927 to Gottfried.

By this amendment, independent claim 8 and allowed claim 13 have been cancelled, with the subject matter thereof being combined into new claim 26. New claim 26 has also been written to overcome the objections raised by the Examiner. Moreover, subject matter of canceled claim 8 that was not afforded patentable weight by the Examiner has been removed. Claims 9, 10, and 12 have been amended to depend on new claim 26 and to include language consistent therewith. As a result, claims 9, 10, and 12 are allowable for the same reasons as claim 26.

By this amendment, claim 21 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowed claim 25. The preamble of claim 21 has also been amended to overcome the objection raised by the Examiner. Moreover, subject matter of that was not afforded patentable weight by the Examiner has been removed from claim 21. Claims 24 and 25 have been cancelled. Claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 21, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons as claim 21.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that this application is in a condition for allowance. Action to that end is hereby solicited.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 with reference to file 14291-68335.

Respectfully submitted,
BARNES & THORNBURG



Shawn D. Bauer
Attorney Reg. No. 41,603

SDB/kim
Indianapolis, IN
(317) 231-7313

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